

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

The following amendments do not constitute an admission regarding the patentability of the amended subject matter and should not be so construed. Amendments to the claims were made for purposes of more clearly stating the claimed subject matter and do not add new matter or alter the scope of the claims.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:
  - providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections;
  - treating the surface of one or more of said microprojections of said microprojection array with a method ~~selected from group consisting of chemical pre-etching, plasma treatment, heat treating, rinsing with an alkaline detergent and comprising rinsing with a~~ an amphiphilic wetting agent;
  - providing a coating formulation comprising an active agent;
  - applying said coating formulation to said treated surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and
  - drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.
2. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said coating formulation contains a pharmacologically effective dose of said agent.
- 3-7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 7 1 wherein said wetting agent comprises a surfactant.
9. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 8 wherein said surfactant comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, cetyl pyridinium chloride, a trimethylammonium chloride (TMAC) surfactant, benzalkonium chloride, a polysorbitan surfactant, sorbitans, and a laureth surfactant.

10. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent is present in a concentration at or above the critical micelle concentration.

11. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of HEC, HPC, HPMC, MC, HEMC, EHEC and a block copolymer ethylene oxide and propylene oxide surfactant.

12. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of proteins and peptides.

13. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 9 wherein said polysorbitan surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate.

14. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 1 wherein said coating formulation has a contact angle of less than about 100 degrees.

15. (Currently amended) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:  
providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections;  
providing a coating formulation comprising an active agent and a an amphiphilic wetting agent;  
applying said coating formulation to said surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and  
drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.

16. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said coating formulation contains a pharmacologically effective dose of said agent.

17. (Currently amended) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 7 1 wherein said wetting agent comprises a surfactant.

18. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 17 wherein said surfactant comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, cetyl pyridinium chloride, a trimethylammonium chloride (TMAC) surfactant, benzalkonium chloride, a polysorbitan surfactant, sorbitans, and a laureth surfactant.

19. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent is present in a concentration at or above its critical micelle concentration.

20. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of HEC, HPC, HPMC, MC, HEMC, EHEC and a block copolymer ethylene oxide and propylene oxide surfactant.

21. (Original) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said wetting agent comprises a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of proteins and peptides.

22. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 18 wherein said polysorbitan surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate.

23. (Previously presented) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 15 wherein said coating formulation has a contact angle of less than about 100 degrees.

24. (New) A method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array comprising the steps of:  
providing a microprojection array comprised of one or more microprojections;

treating the surface of one or more of said microprojections of said microprojection array with a method selected from group consisting of chemical pre-etching, plasma treatment, heat treating, and rinsing with an alkaline detergent;  
providing a coating formulation comprising an active agent;  
applying said coating formulation to said treated surfaces of said one or more microprojections; and  
drying said coating formulation onto said surfaces to form a coating.

25. (New) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises chemical pre-etching.

26. (New) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises plasma treatment.

27. (New) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises heat treating.

28. (New) The method of coating the surface of one or more microprojections of a microprojection array as disclosed in claim 24 wherein said step of treating comprises rinsing at least one surface of one or more microprojections with an alkaline detergent.